

Allen-Scott Report

Probing The Soviet Mind

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WASHINGTON — President Johnson is being urged to use Red China's latest aggression against India to undertake a penetrating probe of Soviet aims, relations and policies.

Top military, intelligence and congressional advisers are proposing that bold and explicit overtures be initiated for the purpose of unmasking the Kremlin's true attitude and thinking on two matters of supremest moment to the security of the U.S. and the peace of the world:

—The exact state of relations between Moscow and Peiping; whether their rancorous public wrangling is merely ideological shadow-boxing or symptomatic of deep - rooted national, territorial, racial and other rivalries and conflicts.

—Russia's real objectives in Asia, particularly in India and other strategic Southeast Asian countries.

Foremost among the advocates of this extraordinary plan, according to White House insiders, are Central Intelligence Director William Raborn, members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Senator Thomas Dodd, D-Conn., outspoken member of the Foreign Relations Committee.

In the President's inner councils, they are stressing two points:

(1) If there is a genuine split between the Soviet and Red China, now is the time to bring it into the open and make the most of it. (2) If the Kremlin rulers sincerely desire to bar China from dominating Asia, they should be willing to join the U.S. in compelling Peiping to halt any further armed pressure against India.

While there have been intense backstage discussions of this proposed "diplomatic initiative," it is still highly conjectural what will be done about it—if anything.

Primary reason for this doubt-

ful outlook is vehement State Department opposition.

Secretary Rusk, Ambassador-at-Large Averell Harriman (who fancies himself a uniquely endowed Russian expert) and McGeorge Bundy, special White House foreign affairs adviser, are exerting their utmost efforts against the daring, bare-knuckle plan.

While favoring "close, diplomatic cooperation" with the Soviet, the State Department group is not only strongly opposed to joint military pressure against Red China, but even to sounding out the Kremlin on such action.

Instead, they are insisting that everything be left in the hands of the United Nations.

This course is drawing sharp fire from the Raborn-Dodd military group. They are pointing out that the policy of "leaving it up to the UN" already has been costly to this country in Turkey and Iran—where the U.S. has spent billions in economic and military aid and where marked coolness now prevails towards the U.S.

Turkey and Iran are supporting Pakistan.

In talks with the President, advocates of the plan have proposed two formulas for joint U.S.-Russian pressure against Red China.

One envisions a series of Soviet military probes in disputed Sino-Soviet border areas. The other calls for Russia and the European satellites, particularly Czechoslovakia and Poland, cutting off all oil and military-potential shipments to China.

Under both proposals, the U.S. would exert pressure on communist China in "limited air and naval action."

Also, the U.S. and Russia would withhold sending arms and other combat supplies to India, thus further implementing the cease-fire between the latter and Peiping-supported Pakistan.